

ART. XVIII.—*On a Molluscan Genus new to, and another forgotten from, Australia.*

(Plate XI.)

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(Communicated by G. B. Pritchard).

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The genus *Lucapinella* was described by Pilsbry on p. 195, of vol. xii., of the First Series of the "Manual of Conchology." He placed in it the following species,—*callomarginata*, Carpenter, the type, from California; *aqualis*, Sowerby, from the west coast of South America; *limatula*, Reeve, from the West Indies, and doubtfully, *aculeata*, Reeve, of unknown habitat.

Some Australian species, though not exactly coinciding with the definition drawn up from spirit specimens of *L. callomarginata*, still appear to me to resemble it sufficiently to justify their inclusion in this genus. My attention was first drawn to this subject by an examination of specimens, the property of the Biological Laboratory of the Melbourne University, dredged in Port Phillip by Mr. Bracebridge Wilson, and kindly communicated to me by Mr. G. B. Pritchard. While studying these I captured alive, at low water, under stones, in Long Bay, near Sydney, a half-grown mollusc, which, known to local collectors as *Fissurella nigrita*, Sowerby, and transferred by Pilsbry to his genus *Megatebennus*, proved at a glance to be generically the same as the forms received from Victoria.

Introductory to the study of the dead Victorian specimens I offer the following notes on the Long Bay animal, which I kept alive in a bottle for some days.

LUCAPINELLA NIGRITA, Sowerby.

(Figs. 1, 2).

Habits active. Foot and mantle rose, papillæ on foot and mantle white, coronal processes white, sole yellow, snout brown, tentacles

and anal tube orange, a few papillæ along the shell black. Foot, when extended, more than twice the length of the shell, bearing numerous papillæ of various sizes, a few along the epipodial furrow becoming larger and tongue-shaped. Tentacles subcylindrical, tips blunt, half as long as the shell, with conspicuous eyes placed on their outer bases. Snout half the length of the tentacles, slightly tapering, mobile, oral orifice longitudinal. Anal tube sometimes exerted a short distance, surrounded by cushion-like papillæ. Mantle roughened externally and denticulated on both margins by numerous small papillæ, outer margin free all round, capable of sheltering the retracted head and falling curtain-wise from the shell's periphery to the foot; inner margin not overlaying the shell, produced into sixteen erect, branched, waving processes which surround the shell like a crown. Viewed from above these coronal processes give the whole animal the general aspect of a sea-anemone; this, my colleague Mr. Waite, has suggested to me, may be a case of protective mimicry.

LUCAPINELLA PRITCHARDI, new species.

(Figs. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7).

From a shell collected at Flinders, Western Port, Victoria, by Mr. J. H. Gatliff, I derive figures 5 and 6, and the following description.

Shell oblong, twice as long as broad, parallel sided, ends rather abruptly rounded, slightly pinched on either side of the perforation. When standing on a plane surface the posterior end is suddenly and highly, the anterior gradually and slightly elevated; there is also a space in the middle where the edge of the shell does not stand upon the ground. Perforation narrowly oval, a quarter of the shell's length, its anterior end the shell's centre; viewed edgewise the notch is seen to be cut deepest at the hinder end. Surface sculptured by about ninety radiating unequal riblets, broader than their interstices, beaded where cut across by circumferential growth lines, near the margin this sculpture develops into imbricating scales upon the riblets. Colour—pink, obscurely rayed by half a dozen yellow segments. The interior is white, smooth and porcelainous, except at the sharp edge where it is pink and crenelated by the external

riblets; posteriorly the edge is bordered within by a heavy callus, which gradually thins out about the middle of each side; the perforation is also surrounded by a callus. Length 24, breadth 12, height 5 mm.

Another and larger specimen from Aldinga Bay is 27 mm. long, and 13 broad.

Of the spirit specimens from Port Philip represented by figures 3 and 4 I observe that the coronal processes number 20, the exposed portion of the tail nearly equals the shell in length, is closely covered with simple and compound tubercles, and deeply, transversely wrinkled; epipodial groove indistinct, but marked by a line of large conical papillæ. From the original of fig. 4, I extracted a radula, fig. 7, composed of a small triangular rachidian, two sloping chisel-shaped laterals, a large outer lateral, whose cusp is shaped like a scythe blade, and armed with an inner tubercle, and two rows of pin shaped uncini.

Habitat.—Flinders (Gatliff) and Port Philip (Wilson), Victoria. Aldinga Bay, St. Vincent's Gulf, South Australia (Pritchard).

Type.—The original of Fig. 3, in the Biological Laboratory of the Melbourne University.

I have much pleasure in associating this interesting animal with the name of my friend, Mr. G. B. Pritchard.

SCYLLÆA PELAGICA, Linne.

A specimen collected by Mr. J. B. Wilson, in Port Philip, and forwarded from the Biological Laboratory of the Melbourne University, by Mr. Pritchard, accords with the figures and description of this species given by Dr. Collingwood in the Trans. Linn. Soc., Zool., Second Series, ii., pp. 137-8, pl. x., ff. 29-33. Much uncertainty envelopes the species assigned to *Scyllæa*. Bergh writes: "Several species have been described, or at least named, some of which will no doubt eventually prove to belong to one circumæquatorial species." Alder and Hancock say: "The species of this genus have been so imperfectly described that it is not easy to decide on their specific differences." To the former authority we owe the latest list of the species, Zoologischen Jahrbuchern, v., pp. 59-62.

Though apparently unknown to Australian naturalists, and omitted from all papers on Australian Mollusca, especially from

Tate's Census of the Molluscan Fauna of Australia, Trans. Roy. Soc. S.A., XI., pp. 70-81, this genus has once before been reported from Australian Seas. Cuvier, in the "Annales du Museum d'histoire naturelle" vol. vi., p. 424, states, "We may add that the companions of Baudin saw it (*i.e.*, *S. pelagica*) near the Terre d'Edels, on the south-west coast of New Holland:" Terre d'Edels was a name given to the coast of Western Australia, between Swan River and Shark Bay. It is described in Freycinet's "Voyage aux Terres Australes," pp. 169-185.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE.

- Fig. 1.—Enlarged outline sketch of *L. nigrita* alive and gliding, viewed from the side.
- Fig. 2.—The same viewed from beneath, showing the head withdrawn under the mantle.
- Fig. 3.—Type of *L. Pritchardi*, from the side, natural size.
- Fig. 4.—Another specimen of the same from above, natural size.
- Fig. 5.—Shell of a third specimen of the same from above, natural size.
- Fig. 6.—Shell of a third specimen of the same from the side, natural size.
- Fig. 7.—Radula of *L. Pritchardi*, magnified.
- All figures drawn from life by the writer.